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Heidi M May
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Albert Calderon et al.) Group Art Unit: 1764
Serial No.: 09/901,554) Examiner: Patel, Vinit H.
Filing Date: July 9, 2001)
For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING) Attorney Docket: 1-15755
CLEAN ENERGY FROM COAL)

March 24, 2005

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Honorable Sir:

In response to the Statement on Reasons for Allowance included by the Examiner with the Notice of Allowance and Notice of Allowability relating to the above-captioned patent application, please include the following comments.

In the Examiners statement of reasons for allowance, it is stated, *inter alia*, that "Methods for the production of energy from coal are generally well known in the art. Applicant's invention is directed toward a method of producing energy in the form of hydrogen rich gases from coal utilizing a fixed bed gasification system wherein coal is fed into the top of the gasifier and moves down as a solid bed, and the coal/char is consumed at the bottom."

Applicants observe initially that this statement appears to be directed specifically only to claims 1 and 39 and those claims depending from either claim 1 or claim 39. In

addition, while some coal maybe fed into the gasifier, claims 1 and 39 both define a process including "directing the hot char to a gasifier," so that it is indeed the coal/char that is consumed at the bottom of the gasifier.

The Examiners statement of reasons for allowance also provides that "Applicant's invention further requires the flowing of a raw second gas together with a molten slag through a common port out of the gasifier, requiring the heat of the aforementioned slag."

This statement appears to be directed specifically only to claim 1 and those claims depending from claim 1. Moreover, while claim 1 requires the "flowing of a raw second gas together with a molten slag through a common port out of the gasifier," it does not define "requiring the heat of the aforementioned slag."

Applicant respectfully requests that the comments contained herein be made part of the file history of the subject application.

Respectfully submitted,



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